

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 109**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman ELLEN J. PARK

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

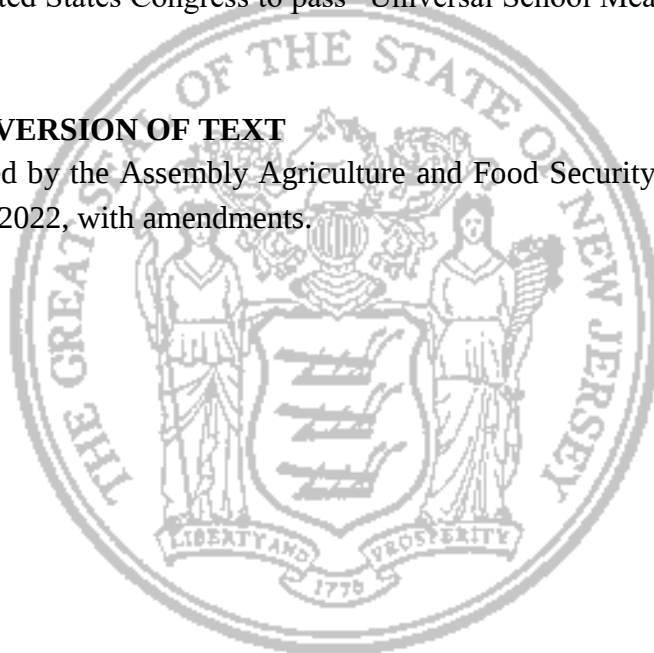
Assemblywomen Jimenez, McKnight and Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

Urges United States Congress to pass “Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee on February 14, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2022)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to
2 pass the “Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Millions of people face food insecurity every day and,
5 before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, five million children in
6 the United States lived in food insecure homes; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The pandemic has exacerbated this problem, with the
8 United States Department of Agriculture estimating that 12 million
9 children in the United States lived in food insecure homes at the
10 height of the pandemic, many of whom experienced the stress of
11 food insecurity for the first time; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Families across the United States continue to struggle
13 financially in the aftermath of the pandemic; putting food and other
14 basic necessities out of reach for many working families; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Hungry children are more likely to have less energy, be
16 more easily distracted, come to school late or miss school entirely;
17 and
18 **WHEREAS**, Free and accessible school meals have been shown to
19 reduce financial stress for students and their families, and to
20 improve the health, educational, and behavioral outcomes of
21 students; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Prior to the start of the pandemic, close to 30 million
23 children in the country relied on free or reduced-priced breakfast
24 and lunch offered through the United States Department of
25 Agriculture; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Schools offering universal school meals during the
27 COVID-19 pandemic have played an important role in fighting the
28 rise in child hunger; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Due to significant economic disruption caused by the
30 pandemic, the United States Department of Agriculture provided
31 waivers of certain school meal rules, allowing school meals to be
32 served free for all students; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The “Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021,”
34 currently pending in the United States Congress, would deliver
35 permanent relief to millions of food insecure families by providing
36 free breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack to all school children
37 regardless of their socioeconomic status; and
38 **WHEREAS**, The “Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021,” if
39 enacted by the United States Congress, would eliminate school food
40 debt and reimburse schools for all delinquent school meal debt; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The “Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021,”
42 would expand the existing free school breakfast and lunch program
43 so that every child receives a free breakfast, lunch, dinner, and
44 snack, irrespective of income, ensuring no child is left hungry; now,
45 therefore,

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAN committee amendments adopted February 14, 2022.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
2 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

3

4 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully urges
5 the United States Congress to pass the “Universal School Meals
6 Program Act of 2021.”

7

8 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
9 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
10 Secretary of the Senate to the ¹Speaker of the United States House
11 of Representatives, the¹ Majority and Minority ¹**【leaders】** Leaders¹
12 of the ¹**【U.S. Congress】** United States House of Representatives,
13 and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate,¹
14 and ¹to¹ each member of Congress elected from New Jersey.